

TOWN OF LEESBURG, VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
MEMORANDUM

To: Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
From: Director of Parks and Recreation
Re: Symington Donation – Recommendation
Date: December 9, 2005

After much research, discussion, and citizen input, I am pleased to offer a recommendation in regard to the use of the Symington donation. This recommendation is unanimously supported by the management team of the department, and is consistent with previous discussions with the commission on the topic.

I believe that we all agree that the acquisition of adjacent land has become our highest priority. I also believe that all of us are torn over how to choose between the public need for an outdoor pool and an indoor tennis center. As a result, staff has worked hard with the Town Manager, and Finance Director to look at financial options that can help meet as many of these needs as possible. In doing so, I believe that we have developed a “win/win” situation for all interested parties that will meet many public recreation needs while honoring the tremendous gift from Mrs. Symington.

As a result, I offer the below listed recommendations, and request your endorsement in order to forward the matter to the Town Council for final approval in early 2006.

- I recommend that the acquisition of land be recognized as our top priority.
- I recommend that the town pursue a financial option in a manner previously outlined by the town’s financial advisor that allows us to acquire adjacent land, to construct an outdoor pool, and to construct an indoor tennis center. This recommendation includes a maximum expenditure of \$4 million for acquisition of land, a \$4 million outdoor pool, and a \$2.5 million indoor tennis center.
- Since the above financial plan requires some public funds, we must acknowledge that the Town Council may not support this alternative. If so, I recommend that development of the tennis and/or pool facilities does not commence until the land option is resolved.
- If the land option is not achievable or is resolved in any manner that does not require the expenditure of funds, I recommend that the town pursue a financial option that will allow the construction of both the outdoor pool, and the indoor tennis center.
- If for whatever reason, a financial option to construct both the tennis and pool facilities cannot be achieved, and requires the town to choose between the tennis and pool option, I recommend that the entire matter be returned to the commission for further consideration.

I look forward to addressing your questions on this matter. I commend you and staff for the hard work that has gone into this very special project.